

Message Text

PAGE 01 JEC PA 12185 032113 Z

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ACTION EA-14

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AID-20 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 RSR-01

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 53

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- FROM LINE --

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN- PRG BILATERALS: 9 TH PLENARY, MAY 3, 1973

REF STATE 11449

1. (SUMMARY) THE NINETY- MINUTE PLENARY CONSISTED EXCLUSIVELY OF EACH SIDE' S ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT THE OTHER' S PLAN OF APRIL 25 (REFTEL) WHILE UPHOLDING ITS OWN PROPOSALS. NEITHER SIDE INTRODUCED ANY MODIFICATIONS OF ITS RESPECTIVE POSITIONS; NEITHER WAS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF THE OTHER' S TERMS. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN MAY 9. THE POST- SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES WERE EQUALLY UNCONSTRUCTIVE, WITH THE GVN EMPHASIZING ALLEGED DRV PREPARATIONS FOR A GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN SVN, AND THE PRG MAKING REPEATED CRITICAL MENTION OF THE US. THE PRG PRESS SPOKESMAN DENIED THAT SECRET TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE, WHILE THE GVN MADE NO RESPONSE TO THE SAME QUESTION. CONCERNING KISSINGER- THO TALKS, THE PRG ECHOED THACH' S REMARKS MAY 1 THAT CON-
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PAGE 02 JEC PA 12185 032113 Z

DITIONS WERE INAUSPICIOUS FOR THEM. (END SUMMARY).

2. PRG CHIEF DELEGATE HIEU SPOKE FIRST. HE REJECTED THE GVN PLAN (REFTEL) AS A RUSE AND A SERIES OF CONTRA-

DICTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT' S CHAPTER IV. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN SVN AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS WAS DUE TO GVN DISREGARD OF THE STIPULATION THAT DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM WOULD BE ESTABLISHED " IMMEDIATELY." THE GVN ELECTION PROPOSAL WAS FRAUDULENT BECAUSE CONDITIONS PREREQUISITE TO FREE ELECTIONS WERE NON- EXISTENT. HEEU PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF THE PRG PLAN (REFTEL), TOGETHER WITH ISSUANCE BY EACH SIDE OF DIRECTIVES TO ITS RESPECTIVE TPJMC DELEGATION TO PROCEED AT ONCE WITH SETTLEMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING MILITARY PROBLEMS.

3. THE GVN CHIEF DELEGATE, DEPUTY PRIMIN VIEN, CASTIGATED THE PRG' S " RIGID FRAMEWORK OF PRE- CONDITIONS." HIS ANALYSIS OF THE IRG PLAN MENTIONED SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF PAST PRG VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING TONG LE CHAN, THE ICCS HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN, THE MEAGER LIST OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS HELD, ETC. THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE POINT OF THE PRG PLAN WAS MENTION OF THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES IN SVN. HE CHARGED THE PRG WITH SEEKING TO PUT OFF ELECTIONS INDEFINITELY AND WITH PERSISTING IN THE ATTEMPTED OVERTHROW OF THE GVN. VIEN RENEWED HIS APPEAL FOR UNINTERRUPTED DISCUSSIONS, BASED ON THE GVN PLAN.

4. THERE WERE NO EXCHANGES OF COMMENT AFTER READINGS OF THE PREPARED STATEMENTS. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE MAY 9.

5. DAN, GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN, MADE A LONG INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT DENOUNCING COMMUNIST DUPLICITY IN DEMANDING DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS WHILE INTENSIFYING ASSASSINATIONS AND OTHER TERRORISM IN SVN. HE READ OUT A LONG CATALOGUE OF MEN AND MATERIEL INFILTRATED INTO THE SOUTH BY THE DRV. THE LATTER AND PRG WERE PREPARING A NEW OFFENSIVE, HENCE THEY SOUGHT TO OBTAIN CONDITIONS THROUGH THE SVN PARTIES' CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD WEAKEN THE GVN' S DEFENSES. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 JEC PA 12185 032113 Z

GVN HAD OFFERED TO LIFT WARTIME RESTRICTIONS-- WHICH WERE NO WORSE THAN THOSE IMPOSED IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE IN 1938-- BUT THE PRG HAD REFUSED, FOR IT SOUGHT TO UNLEASH SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM WITHOUT ANY RESTRAINTS WHATSOEVER.

6. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, DAN RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: (A) AMBASSADOR SLLIVAN HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE GVN IN PARIS LAST WEEK; HIS TRIP WAS NOT INTENDED TO " PUSH THE SVN PARTIES TO A SOLUTION"; (B) HIEU' S MENTION THAT THE PRG AND GVN COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ORGANISMS TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT IN GENERAL ELECTIONS WAS A MERE REPHRASING OF WHAT CHAPTER IV IN-

TENDED; (C) DAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ABOUT ALLEGED GVN- PRG PRIVATE MEETINGS; (D) ON " BIG" MINH' S REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF THE TALKS TO SVN, AND ON CREATING A " PANMUNJON" THERE FOR THE TALKS, THE GVN FAVORED A SAIGON VENUE AND DELINEATION OF RESPECTIVE ZONES, BUT THE GVN SET IMPOSSIBLE TERMS FOR THE FIRS AND REFUSED THE SECOND.

7. DINH BA THI, ACTING AS PRG SPOKESMAN, DELIVERED A HARSH SPEECH FULL OF ATTACKS ON US POLICY. HE DENOUNCED RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS NIXON AND THIEU AND SECDEF RICHARDSON AS THREATS TO RENEW THE WAR. GHE GVN PLAN, PARTYLY DESIGNED TO REIMPOSE US CONTROL OVER SNV, WAS A " SMOKESCREEN OF PROPAGANDA", WHEREAS THE PRG PLAN WAS TIMELY, LOGICAL, APPROPRIATE, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE AGREEMENT, ETC.

8. TO SIGNIFICANT PRESS QUERIES THI RESPONDEDE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) NO PRIVATE MEETINGS HAD OCCURRED, GVN FONMIN LAM' S STATEMENT NOTWITHSTANDING; (B) GVN ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PREPARATION FOR A DRV OFFENSIVE SOUGHT TO HIDE SYSTEMATIC US- GVN VILATIONS, INCLUDING 450 NEW ARVN POSTS SET UP, 6000 TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED BY VNAF, ONE MILLION SHELLS FIRED, 20,000 ARRESTED IN POLICE OPERATIONS, ETC., WHILE THE US HAD INTRODUCED 20,000 DISGUISED ADVISORS AND MUCH WAS MATERIEL INTO SVN, CONDUCTED AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER THE DRV, BROKEN OFF MINE- CLEARING AND THE JEC, ESCALATED IN CAMBODIA, ETC.; (C) WHILE THI WOULD NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HE ALLEGED THAT
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PAGE 04 JEC PA 12185 032113 Z

THE PAST SEVERAL US ADMINISTRATIONS ALL RESORTED TO " DECEITFUL MANEUVERS" CONCERNING INDOCHINA, BUT ALL SUCH ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL OR CAMOUFLAGE THESE MANEUVERS FAILED AND WOULD FAIL AGAIN; (D) ON THE US FOREIGN AID BILL, THE US DECISION TO GIVE "1.9 BILLION" IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GVN VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT; (E) ON FRENCH- GVN ELEVATION OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION TO EMBASSY LEVEL, THI IMPLIED A REBUKE BY STATING THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WERE OBLIGED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN SVN; (F) THE KISSINGER- THO TALKS WERE A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE PRG HAD " NO INFORMATION", BUT THI REPEATED A MAY 1 REMARK BY THACK (WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY KEPT THE PRG BRIEFED LAST WEEK) THAT PRESENT CONDITIONS WERE INAUSPICIOUS. MOSSLER

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